



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

January 15, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Approved Amendments to Michigan's Request for ESEA Flexibility

In July 2012, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved Michigan's request for flexibility in implementing certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

As part of the request, Michigan pledged to continuously monitor the implementation of the ESEA Flexibility and make changes as necessary in order to best serve students, families, and educators. As a result of initial implementation and monitoring, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) submitted two amendments to the approved ESEA Flexibility Request on October 15, 2012, following a period of stakeholder consultation and public comment.

On January 2, 2013, the MDE received a letter of approval from USED for the two requested amendments, which will impact ESEA Flexibility implementation as follows.

1. As Michigan's ESEA Flexibility was originally approved, all Focus Schools would receive a "red" designation on their school accountability scorecard. With approval of this amendment, schools identified as Focus Schools will not automatically receive a "red" designation on their accountability scorecard. Instead, each Focus School will receive the appropriate color designation based on their scorecard data.

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2. As Michigan's ESEA Flexibility Request was approved, a student scoring below "proficient" on state assessments could be counted as "growth proficient" based on a three-year trajectory to achieve proficiency. With approval of this amendment, a student who scores below "proficient" on the state assessment will be counted as "growth proficient" if they demonstrate growth at a rate that will allow them to reach proficiency within four years (or less).

For more information, please visit http://michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_60094---,00.html or email ESEAFlexibility@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance